



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/041,826	01/03/2002	Benjamin R. Yerxa	03678.0023.CNUS03	5357
27194	7590	09/09/2004	EXAMINER	
HOWREY SIMON ARNOLD & WHITE, LLP C/O M.P. DROSOS, DIRECTOR OF IP ADMINISTRATION 2941 FAIRVIEW PK BOX 7 FALLS CHURCH, VA 22042			LEWIS, PATRICK T	
		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
		1623		
DATE MAILED: 09/09/2004				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/041,826	YERXA ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Patrick T. Lewis	1623

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 June 2004.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-3 and 5-17 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) 3,5 and 6 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) -2 and 5-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election without traverse of Group II wherein **X** is oxygen, **m** + **n** = 2, and **B** and **B'** are a pyrimidine of general Formula IIb in Paper No. 4 dated July 8, 2003 is acknowledged. Election was made **without** traverse.
2. The restriction requirement as to the encompassed species of Group II is hereby withdrawn and claims directed to the species drawn to the variables **X**, **m** + **n**, and **B** and **B'** are no longer withdrawn from consideration since all of the claims to this species depend from or otherwise include each of the limitations of an allowed generic claim.

In view of the above noted withdrawal of the restriction requirement as to the linked species, applicant(s) are advised that if any claim(s) depending from or including all the limitations of the allowable generic linking claim(s) be presented in a continuation or divisional application, such claims may be subject to provisional statutory and/or nonstatutory double patenting rejections over the claims of the instant application. Once a restriction requirement is withdrawn, the provisions of 35 U.S.C. 121 are no longer applicable. See *In re Ziegler*, 44 F.2d 1211, 1215, 170 USPQ 129, 131-32 (CCPA 1971). See also MPEP § 804.01.

3. Claims 3 and 5-6 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected invention, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in Paper No. 4 dated July 8, 2003.

Applicant's Response dated June 17, 2004

4. In the Response filed June 17, 2004, claims 1, 8, 11-13 were amended; claim 4 was canceled; and claims 16-17 were added.
5. Claims 1-3 and 5-17 are pending. Claims 3 and 5-6 are drawn to a nonelected invention. An action on the merits of claims 1-2 and 7-17 is contained herein below.
6. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.
7. The objection to claims 4 and 11-13 has been rendered moot in view of applicant's amendment dated June 17, 2004.
8. The rejection of claims 1, 2, 4, and 7-14 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, has been rendered moot in view of applicant's amendment dated June 17, 2004.
9. The rejection of claims 1-2 and 7-15 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-9 of U.S. Patent No. 5,900,407 is maintained for the reasons of record set forth in the Office Action dated March 17, 2004.
10. The rejection of claim 4 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-9 of U.S. Patent No. 5,900,407 has been rendered moot in view of applicant's amendment dated June 17, 2004.

Art Unit: 1623

11. The provisional rejection of claims 1-2 and 7-15 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-11 of copending Application No. 10/010,055 is maintained for the reasons of record set forth in the Office Action dated March 17, 2004.

12. The provisional rejection of claim 4 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-11 of copending Application No. 10/010,055 has been rendered moot in view of applicant's amendment dated June 17, 2004.

Objections/Rejections of Record Set Forth in Office Action

Dated March 17, 2004

13. Claims 1-2 and 7-15 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-9 of U.S. Patent No. 5,900,407. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other.

The difference between the instantly claimed method of enhancing drainage of the lacrimal system and the method of stimulating tear secretion of the '407 patent is that the method of the '407 patent is not limited to the use of the dinucleotide of Formula II. The claims of '407 and the instant invention overlap substantially, and to issue a patent to the claims of the instant application would be to extend the patent term for subject matter patented in '407. Although the two inventions are drawn to a different effect, they are not patentably distinct.

14. Applicant's arguments filed June 17, 2004 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant argues that a method of stimulating tear secretion and a method of enhancing drainage of the lacrimal system are opposite mechanisms and achieve the opposite results. The examiner respectfully disagrees.

In construing the process claims in suit and the references, it is an identity of manipulative operations (i.e. administration of a dinucleotide of Formula II to the eyes), which leads to a finding of obviousness. It is settled that the scientific explanation for an invention is unimportant in considering patentability. More specifically, a reference need not disclose the scientific effects which are inherent to the process.

15. Claims 1-2 and 7-15 are provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-11 of copending Application No. 10/010,055. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other.

The difference between the method of the instant application and the method of the '055 application is that the instant application is drawn to a method of enhancing drainage of the lacrimal system; however one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention would have a reasonable expectation of success of enhancing drainage of the lacrimal system employing the method of the '055 application since both methods employ the same nucleotide (compound of Formula II) and methodological steps (administration of a compound of Formula II to the eyes). Likewise, one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the

invention would have a reasonable expectation of success in employing the method of the instant application to stimulate tear secretion and mucin production in the eye. Although the two inventions are drawn to a different effect, they are not patentably distinct.

This is a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection because the conflicting claims have not in fact been patented.

16. Applicant's arguments filed June 17, 2004 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant argues that a method of stimulating tear secretion and a method of enhancing drainage of the lacrimal system are opposite mechanisms and achieve the opposite results. The examiner respectfully disagrees.

In construing the process claims in suit and the references, it is an identity of manipulative operations (i.e. administration of a dinucleotide of Formula II to the eyes), which leads to a finding of obviousness. It is settled that the scientific explanation for an invention is unimportant in considering patentability. More specifically, a reference need not disclose the scientific effects which are inherent to the process.

Double Patenting

17. The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. See *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164

USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970);and, *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent is shown to be commonly owned with this application. See 37 CFR 1.130(b).

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

18. Claims 16-17 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-9 of U.S. Patent No. 5,900,407. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other.

The difference between the instantly claimed method of enhancing drainage of the lacrimal system and the method of stimulating tear secretion of the '407 patent is that the method of the '407 patent is not limited to the use of the dinucleotide of Formula II. The claims of '407 and the instant invention overlap substantially, and to issue a patent to the claims of the instant application would be to extend the patent term for subject matter patented in '407. Although the two inventions are drawn to a different effect, they are not patentably distinct.

19. Claims 16-17 are provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-11 of copending Application No. 10/010,055. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other.

The difference between the method of the instant application and the method of the '055 application is that the instant application is drawn to a method of enhancing drainage of the lacrimal system; however one of ordinary skill in the

Art Unit: 1623

art at the time of the invention would have a reasonable expectation of success of enhancing drainage of the lacrimal system employing the method of the '055 application since both methods employ the same nucleotide (compound of Formula II) and methodological steps (administration of a compound of Formula II to the eyes). Likewise, one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention would have a reasonable expectation of success in employing the method of the instant application to stimulate tear secretion and mucin production in the eye. Although the two inventions are drawn to a different effect, they are not patentably distinct.

This is a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection because the conflicting claims have not in fact been patented.

Conclusion

20. Claims 1-3 and 5-17 are pending. Claims 3 and 5-6 are drawn to a nonelected invention. Claims 1-2 and 5-17 are rejected. No claims are allowed.
21. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory

Art Unit: 1623

period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Art Unit: 1623

Contacts

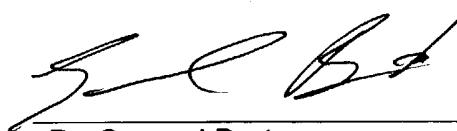
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Patrick T. Lewis whose telephone number is 571-272-0655. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 10:00 am to 3:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James O. Wilson can be reached on 571-272-0661. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Patrick T. Lewis, PhD
Examiner
Art Unit 1623

ptl
August 30, 2004



Dr. Samuel Barts
Primary Patent Examiner
Technology Center 1600